



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 4, 2003

S. 1401 **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** **Reauthorization Act of 2003**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on July 17, 2003*

SUMMARY

S. 1401 would authorize the appropriation of \$3.8 billion in 2004 and \$4.1 billion in 2005 for operations, research, facilities, and procurement programs carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The bill also would authorize the appropriation of between \$300 million and \$337 million annually through 2008 for NOAA program planning and support, including \$2 million to \$3 million a year for a new office of education. Finally, section 206 would authorize NOAA to operate its marine lab in South Carolina in partnership with that state and with with local educational institutions, and to charge and spend lab use fees to support cooperative research.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1401 would cost \$2.4 billion in 2004 and \$9.3 billion over the 2004-2008 period. (About \$170 million would be spent after 2008.) Charging and using fees at the marine laboratory in South Carolina would increase both offsetting receipts and direct spending, but CBO estimates that such transactions would have no significant net effect on the federal budget.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1401 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment). For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by the legislation will be appropriated for each fiscal year and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for NOAA activities. CBO estimates that any offsetting receipts earned by the marine lab in South Carolina under section 206 would be less than \$500,000 a year and would be largely offset by additional direct spending.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law for NOAA operations, research, facilities, and procurement						
Budget Authority ^a	3,183	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	2,827	1,157	390	114	30	30
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	4,066	4,426	320	330	340
Estimated Outlays	0	2,390	3,677	1,838	925	480
Spending Under S. 1401 for NOAA operations, research, facilities, and procurement						
Authorization Level ^a	3,183	4,066	4,426	320	330	340
Estimated Outlays	2,827	3,547	4,067	1,952	955	510

a. The 2003 level is the amount appropriated for that year for NOAA operations, research, facilities, and procurement.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1401 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

Impact on the Private Sector: Paige Piper/Bach

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis